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Arthur F. Leach
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EDUCATIONAL CHARTERS

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[More information](#)*Foundation of East Anglian Grammar School,
on the Model of Canterbury School. 631.*[Bede, *Hist. Eccl.* III. 18, ed. C. Plummer, 1896.]

His temporibus regno Orientalium Anglorum, post Erpualdum Redualdi successorem, Sigberct frater eius praefuit, homo bonus ac religiosus; qui dudum in Gallia, dum inimicitias Redualdi fugiens exularet, lauacrum baptismi percepit, et patriam reuersus, ubi regno potitus est, mox ea, quae in Galliis bene disposita uidit, imitari cupiens, instituit scolam, in qua pueri litteris erudirentur; iuuante se episcopo Felice, quem de Cantia acceperat, eisque pedagogos ac magistros iuxta morem Cantuariorum praebente.

*The Teaching of Archbishop Theodore and
Abbot Hadrian. 668.*[*Ib.* IV. 1.]

Erat autem in monasterio Niridano, quod est non longe a Neapoli Campaniae, abbas Hadrianus, uir natione Africani, sacris litteris diligenter inbutus, monasterialibus simul et ecclesiasticis disciplinis institutus, Graecae pariter et Latinae linguae peritissimus....

Erat ipso tempore Romae monachus Hadriano notus, nomine Theodorus, natus Tarso Ciliciae, uir et saeculari et diuina litteratura, et Graece instructus et Latine, probus moribus, et aetate uenerandus, id est annos habens aetatis lx et vi. Hunc offerens Hadrianus pontifici, ut episcopus ordinaretur, obtinuit.

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[More information](#)*Canterbury and Dunwich*

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*Foundation of East Anglian Grammar School,
on the Model of Canterbury School. 631.*

At this time, after Redwald's successor Erpwald, his brother Sigebert presided over the kingdom of the East Angles, a good and religious man; who some time before, while in exile in Gaul, flying from the enmity of Redwald, received baptism. After his return home, as soon as he obtained the throne, wishing to imitate what he had seen well ordered among the Gauls, he set up a school in which boys might be taught grammar. He was assisted therein by bishop Felix, who came to him from Kent, and provided them with pedagogues and masters after the fashion of the Canterbury men.

*The Teaching of Archbishop Theodore and
Abbot Hadrian. 668.*

Now there was in the monastery of Niridanum, which is not far from Naples in Campania, abbot Hadrian, an African by birth, well learned in sacred literature, and versed in both monastic and ecclesiastical discipline, and highly skilled in the Greek equally with the Latin tongue...

There was at the same time at Rome a monk known to Hadrian, whose name was Theodore, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, a man instructed in secular and divine literature both Greek and Latin; of approved character and venerable age, that is, about 66 years old. Hadrian suggested him to the Pope to be ordained bishop, and the suggestion was adopted.

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[More information](#)[*Ib.* IV. 2.]

Ut Theodoro cuncta peragrante, Anglorum ecclesiae cum catholica ueritate, litterarum quoque sanctorum coeperint studiis inbui.

Peruenit autem Theodorus ad ecclesiam suam secundo postquam consecratus est anno, sub die vi Kalendarum Iuniarum, dominica, et fecit in ea annos xx et unum, menses iii, dies xxvi. Moxque peragrata insula tota, quaquaersum Anglorum gentes morabantur, nam et libentissime ab omnibus suscipiebatur, atque audiebatur, rectum uiuendi ordinem, ritum celebrandi paschae canonicum, per omnia comitante et co-operante Hadriano disseminabat. Isque primus erat in archiepiscopis, cui omnis Anglorum ecclesia manus dare consentiret. Et quia litteris sacris simul et saecularibus, ut diximus, abundanter ambo erant instructi, congregata discipulorum caterua, scientiae salutaris cotidie flumina inrigandis eorum cordibus emanabant; ita ut etiam metricae artis, astronomiae, et arithmeticae ecclesiasticae disciplinam inter sacrorum apicum uolumina suis auditoribus contraderent. Indicio est, quod usque hodie supersunt de eorum discipulis, qui Latinam Grecamque linguam aequae ut propriam, in qua nati sunt, norunt. Neque umquam prorsus, ex quo Britanniam petierunt Angli, feliciora fuere tempora; dum et fortissimos Christianosque habentes reges cunctis barbaris nationibus essent terrori, et omnium uota ad nuper audita caelestis regni gaudia penderent, et quicumque lectionibus sacris cuperent erudiri, haberent in promptu magistros, qui docerent.

Sed et sonos cantandi in ecclesia, quos eatenus in Cantia tantum nouerant, ab hoc tempore per omnes Anglorum ecclesias discere coeperunt; primusque, excepto Iacobo, de quo supra diximus, cantandi magister Nordanhymbrorum ecclesiis Aeddi cognomento Stephanus fuit, inuitatus de Cantia a reuerentissimo uiro Uilfrido, qui primus inter episcopos, qui de Anglorum gente essent, catholicum uiuendi morem ecclesiis Anglorum tradere didicit.

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[More information](#)*Progress and Teaching*

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How through Theodore's travelling everywhere, the churches of the English began to be steeped both in catholic truth and the study of holy writ.

Theodore then arrived at his church in the second year after his consecration, on Sunday, 27 May, and lived in it 21 years, 3 months and 26 days. He soon travelled through the whole island, wherever it was inhabited by the English race. For he was willingly received and listened to by everyone, and everywhere in the company and with the assistance of Hadrian he sowed the right rule of life, the canonical rite for the celebration of Easter. And he was the first of the archbishops to whom the whole English church consented to do fealty. And because, as we have said, both were abundantly learned both in sacred and profane literature, rivers of saving knowledge daily flowed from them to irrigate the hearts of the band of pupils whom they brought together, insomuch that they passed on to their hearers the knowledge even of the art of metre, of astronomy and of ecclesiastical arithmetic, together with the volumes of the sacred text. A proof of this is that even to-day [c. A.D. 731] some of their pupils are still living, who know the Latin and Greek languages as well as their native tongue. Never since the English came to Britain were there happier times than these, in which, under brave and Christian kings, they were a terror to all barbarian tribes, when the aspirations of all hung on the lately revealed joys of the kingdom of heaven, and everyone who wished to become learned in holy writ, had masters at hand to teach him.

Besides, they thenceforth began to learn in all the churches of the English the notes of ecclesiastical chants, which hitherto they had only known in Kent. The first singing master (except James whom we mentioned above) in the Northumbrian churches was Stephen Aeddi, who was invited from Kent by the venerable Wilfrid, who was the first among the bishops of English birth to teach the catholic method of life to the churches of the English.

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[More information](#)*Song Schools at Canterbury, York and Rochester.*

[Ib. II. 20.]

Reliquerat autem in ecclesia sua Eboraci Iacobum diaconum, uirum utique ecclesiasticum et sanctum... Qui, quoniam cantandi in ecclesia erat peritissimus, recuperata postmodum pace in prouincia, et crescente numero fidelium, etiam magister ecclesiasticae contionis iuxta morem Romanorum siue Cantuariorum multis coepit existere.

[Ib. IV. 2.]

Et ipse [Theodore] ueniens mox in ciuitate Hrofi... ordinauit uirum magis ecclesiasticis disciplinis institutum, ... cui nomen erat Putta; maxime autem modulandi in ecclesia more Romanorum, quem a discipulis beati papae Gregorii didicerat, peritum.

Some Pupils of Theodore and Hadrian. 693–709.

[Ib. v. 8.]

Qui [Berctuald archiepiscopus] inter multos, quos ordinauit antistites, etiam Gebmundo Hrofensis ecclesiae praesule defuncto, Tobiam pro illo consecrauit, uirum Latina, Greca, et Saxonica lingua atque eruditione multipliciter instructum.

[Ib. v. 20.]

Ut religioso abbati Hadriano, Albinus... successerit.

Anno quinto Osredi regis, reuerentissimus pater Hadrianus abbas, cooperator in uerbo Dei Theodori beatae memoriae

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Theodore's Pupils

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Song Schools at Canterbury, York and Rochester.

Paulinus when he fled from Northumbria to Kent [in 633] had left in his church of York, James the deacon, a man who while an ecclesiastic [i.e. a secular cleric] was also a saint.... When peace was restored in the province [Northumbria] and the number of the faithful increased, he acted as master to many in church chanting after the Rome or Canterbury fashion.

And he coming soon to the city of Rochester,...ordained a man well informed in ecclesiastical learning,...named Putta; he was especially skilled in the art of church chanting, which he had learnt from the pupils of the blessed Pope Gregory.

Some Pupils of Theodore and Hadrian. 693–709.

Archbishop Bertwald ordained many bishops, and when Gebmund, prelate of the church of Rochester, died, consecrated Tobias in his place, a man of manifold erudition in the Latin, Greek, and Saxon languages and learning.

How Albinus succeeded the religious abbot Hadrian.

In the 5th year of king Osred, the most reverend father abbot Hadrian, fellow-worker in the word of God with bishop

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episcopi, defunctus est....Cuius doctrinae simul et Theodori inter alia testimonium perhibet, quod Albinus discipulus eius, qui monasterio ipsius in regimine successit, in tantum studiis scripturarum institutus est, ut Grecam quidem linguam non parua ex parte, Latinam uero non minus quam Anglorum, quae sibi naturalis est, nouerit.

Aldhelm's Studies, c. 680.[Aldhelmi *Opera*, ed. Dr Giles, p. 96.]

Epistola ad Heddam episcopum.

Domino reverendissimo, omnique virtutum conamine venerando, et post Deum peculiari patrono, supplex almitatis vestrae vernaculus, in Domino salutem.

Fateor, o beatissime Presul, me dudum decrevisse, si rerum ratio ac temporum volitans vicissitudo pateretur, vicinam optati Natalis Domini solemnitatem, ibidem in consortio fratrum tripudians celebrare; et postmodum vita comite vestra caritatis affabili praesencia frui. Sed, quia diversis impedimentorum obstaculis retardati, quemadmodum lator praesentium viva voce plenius promulgabit, illud perficere nequivimus; idcirco difficultatis veniam precor impendite. Neque enim parva temporum intervalla in hoc lectionis studio protelanda sunt ei duntaxat, qui, sagacitate legendi succensus, legum Romanorum iura medullitus rimabitur, et cuncta Jurisconsultorum secreta ex intimis praecordiis scrutabitur: et quod his multo arctius ac perplexius est, centena scilicet metrorum genera pedestri regula discernere, et admista cantilenae modulamina recto syllabarum tramite lustrare. Cuius rei studiosis lectoribus tanto inextricabilior obscuritas praetenditur, quanto rarior Doctorum numerositas reperitur. Sed de his prolixo ambitu verborum disputare epistolaris angustia minime sinit, quomodo videlicet ipsius metricae artis clandestina instrumenta literis, syllabis, pedibus, poeticis figuris, versibus, tonis, temporibusque conglomerantur: poetica quoque septenae divisionis

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[More information](#)*Roman Law and Prosody*

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Theodore of blessed memory, died. Among other proofs of his learning and that of Theodore is this, that his pupil Albinus, who succeeded him in the rule of the monastery, was so advanced in the study of literature, that he had no small knowledge of the Greek language and knew the Latin language as well as that of the English, which was his native tongue.

Aldhelm's Studies, c. 680.

Letter to bishop Haeddi.

To the most reverend lord, venerable for all the virtues, your excellency's suppliant slave, health in the Lord.

I confess, most blessed prelate, that I long ago determined, if the course of events and the flying chances of time would allow it, to celebrate the coming solemnity of the Lord's birthday dancing there with the brethren, and afterwards if life remained to enjoy the affable company of your grace. But being kept back by divers obstacles, as the bearer will tell you more fully, *viva voce*, I was unable to do so. So I pray pardon my troublesomeness. For indeed no small time must be spent in the study of reading, especially by one who, inflamed by the desire of knowledge, wishes at the same time to explore Roman law to the marrow, and examine in the most intimate fashion all the mysteries of the Roman lawyers; and what is much more difficult and perplexing, to digest the hundred kinds of metres into prose rules, and illustrate the mixed modulations of song in the straight path of syllables. And in this subject the obscurity is so much the harder for the studious reader to penetrate because of the small number of teachers to be found.

But the restricted space of a letter does not permit of a long dissertation on this matter: how, for instance, the secret instruments of the art of metre are collected in letters, syllables, feet, poetical figures, verses, accents, and quantities; how the art of prosody too, is divided into a seven-fold division, the

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disciplina, hoc est acephalos, lagaros, protilos, cum ceteris qualiter varietur; qui versus monoschemi, qui penteschemi, qui decaschemi, certa pedum mensura trutinentur: et qua ratione catalectici, brachycatalectici seu hypercatalectici versus, sagaci argumentacione cognoscantur. Haec, ut reor, et his similia, brevis temporis intercapedine momentaneoque ictu apprehendi nequaquam possunt.

De ratione vero calculationis quid commemorandum? cum tanta supputationis imminens desperatio colla mentis oppreserit, ut omnem praeteritum lectionis laborem parvi penderem, cuius me pridem secreta cubicula nosse credideram; et ut sententia beati Hieronymi utar, qui mihi prius videbar sciolus, rursus cepi esse discipulus, dum se occasio obtulit, sicque tandem superna gracia fretus, difficillima rerum argumenta et calculi supputationes, quas partes numeri appellant, lectionis instantia reperi. Porro de Zodiaco et duodecim Signorum, quae vertigine coeli volvuntur, ratione ideo tacendum arbitror; ne res opaca et profunda, quae longa explanandarum rerum ratione indiget, si vili interpretationis serie propalata fuerit, infametur et vilescat: praesertim cum Astrologicae artis peritia, et perplexa horoscopi computatio, elucubrata doctioris indagacione egeat.

Haec idcirco, carissime pater, cursim pedetentim perstrinximus non garrulo verbositatis strepitu illecti, sed ut scias, tanta rerum arcana examussim non posse intelligi, nisi frequens et prolixa meditatio fuerit adhibita.

Alcuin on St Peter's School, York. 732–786.

[Transcribed from lost MS. in monastery of St Theodoric in 1690, printed in *Hist. of Church of York* (Rolls Series, No. 71), by James Raine, 1879, p. 390: see A. F. Leach, *Early Yorkshire Schools*, 1. 4.]

De Pontificibus et Sanctis Ecclesiae Eboracensis Carmen.

De quo plura vetat narrari Musa recurrens
Carminis ad finem; propriique ad gesta magistri,
Qui post Egbertum venerandae insignia sedis
Suscepit sapiens Aelbertus nomine dictus.